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5. (Original) The generator of claim 1 including an inlet fitting on said base and outlet fitting on said housing, said inlet fitting and outlet fitting comprising zero clearance fittings.

6. (Currently Amended) The generator of claim 2 including a perforated gas distribution plate on which said metallic material charge is disposed, said plate being disposed in said housing downstream of said flange region in the direction of flow of said halide gas in said generator such that said halide gas flows through said gas distribution plate to contact said metallic charge thereon.

7-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The generator of claim 1 wherein the metallic charge includes at least one of $[[\text{Si}]]$ Al and a reactive metal selected from the group consisting of Hf, Zr, Y, Ce, La, and Mg.

13. (New) The generator of claim 1 wherein the metallic charge comprises a bed of metallic pellets.

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14. (New) A metal halide coating gas generator disposed external of a coating retort, comprising a base, a housing having a metallic charge for reaction with a halide gas to produce a metal halide coating gas in said housing, said housing having a region disposed on said base, a polymeric seal disposed between said region and said base, said region having a fluid passage therein for cooling said region, and a heating device to heat the metallic material charge to a reaction temperature, said base having an inlet through which said halide gas is introduced into said base for flow into said housing and said housing having an outlet through which said metal halide coating gas generated therein is discharged to the coating retort.